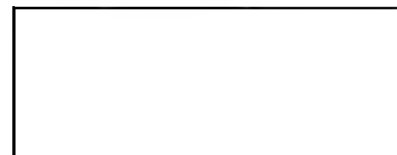


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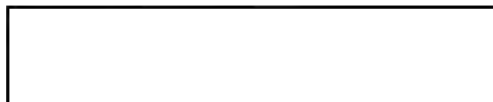
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*Vietnam:

South Vietnam: Buddhist militants, joined by two defeated presidential candidates, have publicly declared their opposition to the election of Thieu and to the upper house elections.

At a press conference on 24 September, the militant An Quang Buddhist faction--under the guise of the newly proclaimed "Committee To Protect the Charter"--charged that the recent election was rigged and that the new upper house is controlled by Can Laos. The Can Lao was the late president Diem's political apparatus and, as such, is hated by the militant Buddhists.

Present at the press meeting were Thich Tri Quang, Thich Ho Giac, and defeated presidential candidates Truong Dinh Dzu and Vu Hong Khanh. Ho Giac read a declaration which, among other points, called for the Provisional National Assembly (PNA) to reject the results of the recent elections and to cancel the lower house elections scheduled for next month. Truong Dinh Dzu openly allied himself with the militant Buddhists, joining in the appeal for the PNA to "get rid of Thieu and his Can Lao Assembly."

Several hundred students yesterday staged a demonstration in Saigon denouncing the recent elections as fraudulent. On 19 September militant Buddhists in Hue held a demonstration denouncing the new Buddhist charter signed by Thieu at the request of moderate Buddhist Thich Tam Chau. The leader of the Hue demonstration was active during the "struggle" movement in the spring of 1966. He has been ordered to leave Hue by provincial police authorities.

B-52 strikes, US counterbattery fire, and heavy rains reduced the intensity of the Communist bombardment of Con Thien over the weekend, but in continuing mortar and artillery attacks 70 more US Marines were wounded. In the rest of I Corps numerous contacts with small enemy units were reported.

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MACV reports indicate that a ~~coordinated~~ enemy attack on Con Thien was planned for 17-18 September, but that flooding of enemy fortifications and storage areas, as well as US artillery fire and air raids, disrupted the operation. About 20 inches of rain has fallen in the past week and has washed out roads around Con Thien and restricted tactical air support.

A major fire in the petroleum storage area at Camp Holloway near Pleiku destroyed 230,000 gallons of fuel on 23 September. Sabotage is suspected and a man with an expended flare was apprehended near the camp perimeter. (Map)

North Vietnam: The Soviet - North Vietnamese agreement on military and economic assistance--signed on 23 September--caps the current aid-seeking mission to Communist countries by North Vietnamese Deputy Premier Le Thanh Nghi. The Soviet announcement of the new aid pact reasserts the prime role played by the USSR in supporting and supplying Hanoi's war effort. The USSR continues to characterize its aid program as increasing the "defensive capacity" of North Vietnam, and schedules for delivery in 1968 consist of the same items currently supplied. Soviet outlays for grant assistance to North Vietnam will continue to rise under the new agreement but do not represent a heavy burden to the USSR. Last year the USSR provided about 75 percent of the estimated \$700 million worth of economic and military aid supplied by Communist countries.

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NOTE

Guyana: Finance Minister D'Aguiar, the leader of the junior party in Prime Minister Burnham's coalition government, intends to resign today. He will probably make a token attempt to convince his party to continue in the coalition, but distrust of Burnham may lead at least one of the party's other two cabinet ministers to follow D'Aguiar out of the government. Burnham would probably attempt to remain as Prime Minister even if he is left with a minority government, but prospects for effective administration and continued national stability will be greatly reduced.

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